

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **2014 Youth Serve Montana Scholarship Available to High School Seniors**

Students earn \$1,000 for college by giving 100 volunteer hours

HELENA, MT- The Governor's Office of Community Service, Montana Campus Compact, and Student Assistance Foundation announced today that the 2014 *Youth Serve Montana Scholarship* is now available for up to 100 Montana high school seniors. It is the ninth year for this exciting scholarship opportunity aimed at students dedicated to volunteering.

The *Youth Serve Montana Scholarship* rewards students who have volunteered over 100 hours in the last year and who want to further their education in state. This year, 100 high school seniors will receive \$1,000 toward continued education at one of Montana Campus Compact's public, tribal, private, or community colleges and universities.

"Students throughout Montana engage in thousands of hours of service annually," said Kelly Cresswell, Student Assistance Foundation vice president of Foundation Activities. "Student Assistance Foundation is pleased to partner with the Governor's Office of Community Service and Campus Compact to provide these scholarships funds in recognition of their efforts."

The *Youth Serve Montana Scholarship* application form, guidelines, and FAQs can be found online at [serve.mt.gov](http://serve.mt.gov). Completed applications, proof of volunteer hours, confirmation of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and enrollment in a Montana post-secondary institution must be submitted to the Governor's Office of Community Service by **April 15, 2014**.

"It is important that we recognize students who are committed to serving their communities," said Jane Karas, Ph.D., chair of Montana Campus Compact and president of Flathead Valley Community College. "By awarding these scholarships, we are rewarding students for their dedication and efforts while supporting them as they pursue their educational goals."

"Supporting service and education sustain strong, diverse communities, lifelong service and philanthropy by young people and assists students in affording a quality education to secure a positive and productive future," said Karin Olsen-Billings, chair of the Montana Commission on Community Service.

The Governor's Office of Community Service, Montana Campus Compact, and Student Assistance Foundation would like to encourage students seeking volunteer work to take advantage of the increase in volunteer opportunities during the holiday season. Students should contact local shelters, food banks, or volunteer organizations to see how they can best serve their community.

The 2014 *Youth Serve Montana Scholarships* have been made possible through support from the Governor's Office of Community Service, Montana Campus Compact, and Student Assistance Foundation.

The Governor's Office of Community Service expands and promotes national service and volunteerism in Montana and engages citizens in service and emergency preparedness. Visit [serve.mt.gov](http://serve.mt.gov).

Montana Campus Compact is Montana's largest higher-education network and works to improve community life by educating students for civic and social responsibility. Visit [www.mtcompact.org](http://www.mtcompact.org).

Student Assistance Foundation is a nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to pursue and fund their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the form of education grants, scholarships and public benefit programs - to date totaling more than \$25 million. Visit [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org) or [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org).

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